



Job title: **Darwin Horticulturalist**

Project title: 'Increasing local capacity to conserve St Helena's threatened native biodiversity'

Location: St Helena Island, South Atlantic

Duration: 3 years

Salary: £17,000 + travel allowance

Hours of Work: 37.5 hours per week

Overall Purpose of the Job

Working closely with Darwin Project Manager and Restoration Ecologist, to ensure the successful delivery of the Darwin project according to its aims and objectives – specifically to restore endemic vegetation at two sites; to provide advice and support in plant production where required; to deliver conservation training for apprentices and other stakeholders in techniques associated with successful habitat restoration; and to help implement effective management at the restored sites.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Horticultural Support

- Provide in-the-field horticultural expertise while carrying out practical invasive clearance and habitat restoration at the project sites
- Develop and implement successful endemic plant establishment techniques in the wild, and disseminate this information to stakeholders
- Accurately target planting requirements and coordinate with Environment & Conservation Section (ECS) nursery to ensure timely production
- Provide specific horticultural advice, training and support to ECS, National Trust staff and other stakeholders where needed to support the delivery of the project
- Collect seed from the project sites to add to the local seed bank
- Assist with vegetation surveys and other data recording to monitor success of habitat restoration at High Peak and Blue Point
- Assist the Restoration Ecologist to develop and implement site specific management plans for the project sites in collaboration with ECS management
- Provide data required for IUCN species assessments

2. Education and training

- Deliver elements of a plant conservation training programme/NVQ (working closely with Restoration Ecologist and ECS)
- Ensure NVQ requirements are met (including regular assessment of conservation apprentices, periodic meetings with local NVQ Co-ordinator)

- Provide information to Project Manager for training materials and schools education packs
- Lead horticultural training days for other stakeholders
- Contribute to conservation activities for public and schools
- Assist with coordinating volunteer activities

3. Awareness raising

- Support activities and publicity work aimed at promoting the work of the project/National Trust (eg contribute articles to Trust's quarterly newsletter and website; provide talks and presentations on project)
- Provide information for interpretation at demonstration habitat restoration areas

Working relationships

Post holder reports to: Darwin Project Manager

Reporting to Post holder: Conservation apprentices, volunteers

Other key working relationships: Darwin Restoration Ecologist; Environment & Conservation Section (Conservation Officer, Nursery Officer); OTEP Horticultural Support Officer; RBG Kew; Tourism Office; Education Department; Adult and Vocational Education Service (AVES);

Personal Attributes and Skills

- Practical, creative, good problem solving skills
- Team oriented, enjoys working with a wide cross section of the community
- Good communication and inter-personal skills with the ability to engage stakeholders and to motivate staff and volunteers
- Ability to work to deadlines and under pressure
- Ability to work with a small team and with colleagues within the wider organisation / project base
- Physically fit and able to work independently in the field, often in harsh conditions (weather, terrain) requiring self-reliance and initiative
- Good endurance and able to lift their own body weight
- Able to work at heights and on steep slopes
- Able to spend extensive periods of time away from home during the contract period

Essential Requirements

- A practical horticultural qualification, eg. Kew Diploma in Horticulture, or equivalent experience
- Minimum of 3 years experience working in horticultural management position, including experience of planning and scheduling workload
- Experience of propagating and growing critically endangered plants
- Knowledge of the issues relating to the conservation of critically endangered plants
- Experience of seed collection and storage methodologies
- Knowledge of conservation issues on small islands
- Practical experience of invasive alien plant control

- Experience and knowledge of biodiversity monitoring techniques, transect counts and field survey
- Past supervisory experience, able to raise awareness, facilitate learning and encourage participation of schoolchildren, youth and adults
- FEPA PA1 & PA6
- Clean driving licence
- Clean police vetting certificate (a St Helena immigration requirement)

Desirable Skills, Knowledge, Experience

- Experience of practical conservation horticulture and practical habitat restoration work
- Experience of subtropical growing conditions
- Ability to produce well-written reports and articles
- Familiarity with GIS data systems
- Experience of working on small remote islands
- Knowledge of conservation issues on St Helena
- Familiarity with IUCN Red Data Listing
- NVQ Assessor A1 Award (or experience of NVQ assessment process)
- Experience of managing volunteers
- Ability to deliver public presentations
- Off-road driving skills
- Rope work experience
- Current First Aid Certification